FRIENDS OF THE BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of meeting held November 5, 2026

Board members present: Allegra Wright, Susan Presby, Candy Murphy, Sally Fitzgerald, Norma St. John, Hilary Veilleux, Estelle LaFleur

Librarian present: Laura Clerkin

Meeting called to order: 5:38

Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2026: Estelle made a motion to accept the October minutes as written; Norma seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Norma announced the current balance of all accounts $15,343.58. This includes the CD $8,136.28 and the checking account $7,207.30. Allegra asked for donations for her birthday on Facebook, so far $350 has been donated (less transaction fees). Hilary made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Estelle. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Bake Sale 11/3: Hilary reported that the sale took in $950.50, a record amount! Baked goods were sold out by 11:30am; soup was sold out by 2pm. There were plenty of items, but increased traffic and many donations helped with the total. Accepting credit cards yielded $133 of that total. Bake sales YTD $2,340.75.

Hilary wrote a thank you that will be sent out on social media and the Friends web page.

MascomaPay and Clover machine:

Allegra, Norma, and Laura met with Mascoma virtually to learn how to use the Clover machine. Allegra will meet again to learn more about the portal. The machine was easy to use and came in handy for the bake sale. Because there was no available wi-fi, the data plan was used for the day and then turned off.

There was a discussion of logistics in using the machine for the brownie sundae table. This can be discussed closer to next summer's concerts.

Pollinator Garden: Allegra and Norma spread 10 bags of mulch on the pathways. In the spring, after perennials are divided, more mulch will be applied to the beds.

New Business:

Deliberative 2027: Laura was asked by Veronica Morris if the Friends would be interested in providing food for the Deliberative Session on Monday, February 1, 2027. After discussion, they decided this would be a good additional fundraiser.

Action Item: Laura will let Veronica know, and will ask her thoughts on food choices/details/parameters.

Christmas Party: Christmas in Bethlehem is Saturday, December 5th. Party will again be 11am-1pm. There will be a bag decorating station (bags left over from Main Street event this summer); three craft tables; and cookie decorating. Last year there were 115 children and 98 adults. Crafts were decided and ordered for 125 children.

Action Items:

- Laura to contact Marsha Dickerman about helping as Mrs. Claus
- Allegra to contact Christina Bogat about making cookies. Candy will also make cookies.
- Check markers and purchase more if needed
- Purchase stickers for the bags and disposable tablecloths, perhaps from Dollar Tree
- Norma will purchase frosting and cocoa packets

Gingerbread House Contest: Laura asked if the Friends will donate prizes for the gingerbread house contest. There would be a $100 gift card first prize and another prize, either a $25 gift card or a book, for People's Choice award. Estelle made a motion to donate the prizes, seconded by Sally. Motion passed unanimously.

Crisis letter: Allegra and Sue wrote and sent out a letter to the members regarding the need for people to come forward as board members, as well as the dire need for a Secretary and Treasurer. Estelle then shared the letter on various Facebook pages. To date, there has been only minor interest. One person joined during the bake sale.

There was a discussion about how to get new members, as well as get members involved. Relationships need to be cultivated beyond just an email that may, or

may not, get opened. The member roster also needs to be cleaned up so we know who to contact.

Annual Meeting: According to the By-Laws, there must be an annual meeting. It was decided that the annual meeting be before the regular December meeting on December 3rd. Notification of the annual meeting must be at least five business days prior, so the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes, as well as the President's letter would need to go out by November 26 (before Thanksgiving). The dues letter will also go out at that time.

Tractor Supply Fair: Candy said that Tractor Supply holds a local organization fair twice a year. The next is in April, but sign-up to participate is now. This would be good exposure for the Friends. Candy will sign up, and the details will be discussed at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7:34pm. Motion made by Sally, seconded by Norma.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2026

5:30 2026 Annual Meeting, followed by regular monthly meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Clerkin